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A Report to the People of Montana

Montana Committee for the Humanities Newsletter • Fall 1989 • Vol. 16. No. 1

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OCT 12 1989

Sacred Encounters: Jesuit Missionaries and the Indians of the Rocky Mountains

Washington State University, with the assistance of area tribes and scholars and led by project director Jaqueline Peterson of the History and Native American Studies Departments, is developing a regional and national traveling exhibition of art, artifacts, music and video. The exhibition will illustrate the developments and changes set in motion nearly 150 years ago by Father DeSmet's founding of missions in Idaho, Montana and Washington.

Based on the recent discovery of a collection of drawings and maps from the 1840s, the exhibit will represent the missionaries' images of the geography, tribal peoples, and flora and fauna of the northern Rockies and eastern plateau. The missionaries' first contact with traditional life ways and beliefs of the tribes will also be revealed.

The regional exhibit's tour and accompanying public programs are scheduled for 1992-93. An MCH planning grant for $13,794 to the Salish - Kootenai College in Ronan, MT and to WSU will enable program planners to work closely with the Montana tribes in developing the exhibit. Betty White, a member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, is conducting research for the project in Montana.

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Washington State University - Holland Library

Quillix, a well-known Kuteani woman warrior, as drawn by Nicolas Point. This pencil or graphite drawing is part of the DeSmet Papers in the Washington State University, Holland Library Collection.

Call For Scholars

MCH is seeking proposals from state humanities scholars for 1989-1990 Weekend Humanities Institutes for Teachers and for PIR Day Humanities Institutes for Teachers. Proposals are due **October 15, 1989.** Guidelines and application criteria are available from:

Montana Committee
for the Humanities
P.O. Box 8036
Missoula MT 59807
(406) 243-6022

New Speakers Bureau Prepared

MCH offers organizations twenty-four fascinating programs in this Centennial Year Speakers Bureau. Ten programs focus specifically on Montana history, literature and myth. Other topics focus on international cultures and issues, American history, archaeology, folk art, and philosophy.

Organizations wishing to host a Speakers Bureau program must provide the date, place, audience and publicity. MCH provides the speaker, travel and per diem.

For more information or for a copy of the new Speakers Bureau brochure, please write the Montana Committee for the Humanities, P.O. Box 8036, Hellgate Station, Missoula, MT 59807.

Grants Awarded March 1989 to September 1989

Jewish Film Festival, Great Falls Hebrew Association and the College of Great Falls. Showing of five films to share Jewish heritage with Montanans. $3,549.

Modern Communications and the Death of Art and Politics, University of Montana Modern Communications Conference Organizing Committee. Examination of the role of the humanities in an age of high-tech mind manipulation. $2,200.

Quilts: On and Off the Wall, Livingston Depot Foundation. Program on the place and role of quilts and quilting in 19th and 20th century American culture. $2400.

Mike Mansfield: An Island of Integrity, Communication Arts Department, Eastern Montana College. Lecture by Gregory Olson on the life and work of Mike Mansfield. $1,166.

The Sense of Christ: Inquiries and Inquisitions. Helena Film Society, Carroll College and the Lewis and Clark County Library. An examination of the controversy surrounding "The Last Temptation of Christ" in the context of other films depicting the life of Jesus. $5,988.

100 Years of Writing in Montana, Missoula Public Library. Lecture/discussion during Missoula Book Fair. $350.

Civilization, Inscription, and Painting the Wilderness (Red), Rocky Mountain College. Lecture/discussion. $300.

Fort Belknap's Salute to the Humanities, 100 Years of Cultural Transition, Fort Belknap College. Conference to explore the changes in Indian culture over the 100 years of Reservation life. $2,500.

A Celebration of Native Culture, Tribal Government — Yesterday and Today, MSU Center for Native American Studies et al. Public program of lectures and panels to increase the Montana public's awareness and appreciation of the richness, diversity and integrity of Native American cultures. $4,599.

Searching for the Dead Sea Treasure, Eastern Montana College. Lecture/discussion by Dr. Bruce Zuckerman on his recent research into the Dead Sea scrolls. $868.

Montana Women Artists Centennial Survey Art Exhibition — Catalog Section II Production, Custer County Art Center. Publication of catalog to accompany traveling exhibit of Montana women artists. $3,217.

Consequences, Montana Indians and One Hundred Years of Statehood, Montana Indian Center and Indian Health Board of Billings. Conference to discuss Montana Indians and one-hundred years of statehood. $5,998.

Calendar of Events

September 9 *Glasgow Havre*
Montana Traveling Historians Project
Montana Historical Society Foundation. Historians' lectures and discussions on topics relating to Montana's centennial.

September 12 *Bozeman*
Women in the West, Linda Peavy and Ursula Smith. Gallatin County Extension Homemakers.

September 14-16 *Havre*
Preserving the Rural Landscape, Montana Preservation Alliance.

September15 *Billings*
MT Traveling Historians Project

September 16 *Kalispell*
The Magic Carpet Made of Steel, Bill Rossiter. Insurance Women of N.W. Montana.

September 29 *Great Falls*
MT Traveling Historians Project

September 30 *Miles City*
MT Traveling Historians Project

September 30 *Helena*
""*Sweetgrass and Shining Mountains: A Celebration of Native Montana.*," Helena Film Society. *A Past and Future Land*, John Hart. *Crows Don't Wear Mini-Skirts*, Mardell Plainfeather. *Experiencing the Sacred in Montana*, Harold Gray - Helena Film Society.

October 5 *Helena*
Sweet Grass and Shining Mountains: A Celebration of Native Montana.," Helena Film Society. *Readings from Mourning Dove*, Alanna Brown. *There is No Word for Good-Bye*, Roger Dunsmore.

October 20 *Helena*
MT Traveling Historians Project

October 21 *Kalispell*
MT Traveling Historians Project

October 23 *Great Falls*
Planting in the Dust, 1989, AERO.

November 17 *Missoula*
MCH Annual Humanities Awards Banquet.

November 17-18 *Butte-*
Centennial West: Celebrations of the Northern Tier States' Heritage.

1989 Friends of the Humanities

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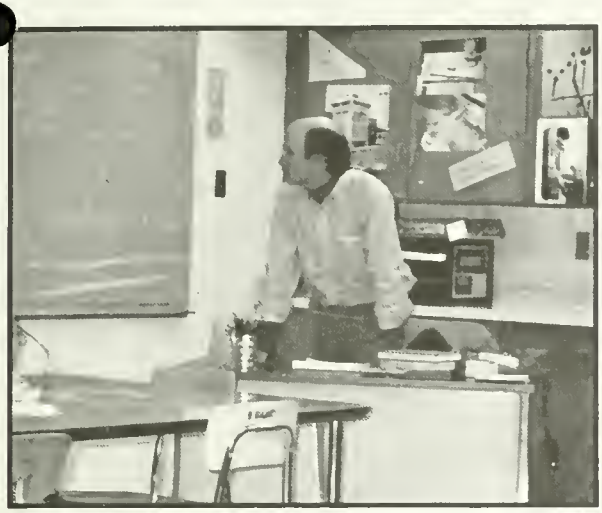
MCH and Education in Montana



Arlene Garvey Photo

Recognizing that America's future is being shaped in America's classrooms, the Montana Committee for the Humanities is eager to work with teachers in designing programs which use the humanities to deepen our understanding of our world and our lives.

Classics in the Classroom

Stewart Justman, (pictured left) University of Montana English professor, instructs Butte teachers in one of the "Classics in the Classroom" programs. Project Director Yuvonne Sundberg, a Butte area teacher, designed the program so that "the ultimate benefactors will be our students." Participants and evaluators praised the program for inspiring innovations in reading programs throughout the Butte School district.

MCH Queries Teachers

The MCH will query Montana teachers at the Fall MEA convention to get information for the planning of two upcoming MCH projects.

Questionnaires will be submitted to Social Studies teachers for ideas for education packets being designed as part of a regional 1992-93 Lewis and Clark project. MCH project coordinators are trying to determine what types of teaching aids should be included in the packets.

Teachers who would like copies of the Bill of Rights poster exhibit designed by the Pennsylvania Committee for the Humanities may also order them at the October convention. Each exhibit comes with a user's guide with classroom activities for grades 4-12.

Information will also be provided about other MCH services for teachers and schools.

Montana Teachers Participate in Summer Humanities Institutes

Nearly forty Montana teachers participated in MCH Summer Humanities Institutes held this summer at three Montana locations.

Nine teachers (pictured below) participated in a stimulating and enriching week-long seminar entitled "Meaning in Literature, Meaning in Life," at Eastern Montana College from June 12-17, 1989. Dr. Walter Gulick, Eastern Montana College professor of philosophy, used an interdisciplinary approach in teaching the institute. Other seminars were "Montana Writers," by Prof. Bill Bevis at the University of Montana, June 12-17, and "Roses, Thorns, Poets and Warriors," by Prof. Lowell Jaeger at the Glacier Institute, July 3-8. This is the sixth summer MCH has sponsored the Summer programs for Teachers.

Joe Heins Photo

Institute participants (left to right): Julianne Omland, Billings Sky View H.S.; Barry Linn, Laurel H.S.; Tanya A. Hargrove, Custer P.S.; Peggy Smith, Billings Sky View H.S.; Prof. Walter Gulick, Institute Leader; Margaret Abbott, Poplar H.S.; Nancy K. Pike, Laurel Middle School; Anne Holt, Libby Middle School & H.S.; Eileen Larson, Carter Co. H.S.; F.B. Moreni, Anaconda Sr. H.S.

Food for Thought

by Margaret Kingsland

HISTORY

For the past sixteen years, the Montana Committee for the Humanities (MCH) has made grants in support of public programs in the humanities. Five years ago, the numerous reports and debates on American education led the MCH to examine ways and means of better serving Montana educators and schools.

In 1984 the Committee, responding to state and national debates about educational quality, attempted to design a special initiative which would be of use to Montana teachers, would strengthen their preparation and training in the humanities, would stimulate the development of networks of schoolteachers, and build bridges between schools and the state's universities and colleges.

The Committee was heavily influenced by the conviction that study in depth and in detail should be encouraged, and so it planned for the development of month-long Summer Seminars for High School Teachers. Over the past five years, a total of sixteen different Summer Seminars for Teachers have been funded by the MCH.

RESULTS

Looking at the results in terms of numbers of teachers served by month-long seminars, the Committee might have concluded that its experiment was a failure. But virtually to a person, each teacher who participated in an MCH Summer Seminar praised the program and the experience. Many reported that their in-depth study provided some of the most exhilarating intellectual experiences of their lives.

Over the five-year period, the Committee was interested to note that a cadre of teachers affectionately called "MCH Summer Seminar junkies" developed. They enrolled in a Seminar each summer and extolled the value of such study to their colleagues. While this was a gratifying development, the Committee could not justify continuing to support a program which didn't continually expand to a wider constituency, and so, reluctantly, voted to discontinue the month-long Seminars.

NEW SUMMER INSTITUTES

This year the MCH offered three week-long Summer Institutes for Teachers designed to provide an intense, but briefer immersion in a text or topic in the humanities. Similar to the seminars of the past five summers, the institutes provided stipends for study and college or university credits for the work.

NEW PROGRAMS

Future plans call for Weekend Humanities Institutes for Teachers to be available during the 1989-90 academic year. In November, five different Institutes will be selected for funding, and each will be available in a total of three different communities. They will be designed to provide teachers in a school or school district an intensive reading and discussion program in a core discipline in the humanities.

The Committee is also planning to develop humanities programs which can be used by schools for their PIR days and In Service offerings. Suggestions for topics for all of these programs are welcome.

Recognizing that America's future is being shaped in America's classrooms, the Montana Committee for the Humanities is eager to work with teachers in designing programs which use the humanities to deepen our understanding of our world and our lives.

Excerpted from *Montana English Journal*
Vol. 12, No. 2, Spring 1989

The work... can become a "text" in which we can "read" something of the Salish appreciation of the natural world. If we open our hearts, we will be both delighted and instructed by what the Native Americans of this region can teach us.

The Living Tradition

Megan McNamer Photo

Salish beaded gloves, circa 1900. Courtesy Four Winds Trading Post, St. Ignatius, Montana. Cover photograph of "The Living Tradition," published by the Missoula Museum of the Arts.

Committee Seeks Four New Members: Applications due by October 2, 1989

The Montana Committee for the Humanities is composed of 19 volunteer members, including four persons appointed by the governor. Members come from the academic community and the public at large, and all regions of the state. Nominations of tribal members, attorneys, labor and business representatives, ranchers and farmers are needed, as well as scholars in the humanities.

Each MCH member contributes his or her time in activities central to the Committee's operation: reading and reviewing approximately 80 applications for funding each year; attending funded projects and events; representing the Committee at regional and national conferences; program development, and long-range planning.

The Committee meets four times between September and June. Locations vary and expenses are paid. Conference telephone meetings for subcommittees are used when needed. Members serve for four years.

If you, or someone you know, would make a valuable contribution to the Committee by serving as a member, please complete and return the nomination form below to the MCH office no later than Monday, October 2nd. Nominees must submit the following information to the MCH office by Monday, October 2nd:

- Letter of Intent (willingness to serve)
- Two letters of recommendation
- Resume

Candidate Nomination Form
Montana Committee for the Humanities

I nominate: _____
(name of candidate)

_____

_____
(address) (phone)

_____
(my name)

_____

_____
(my address) (phone)

I have notified my nominee and his/her resume will be sent, together with a letter of intent and two letters of recommendation, by October 2, 1989, to:

Montana Committee for the Humanities
Post Office Box 8036, Heligate Station
Missoula, MT 59807

MCH Seeks Sponsors for Local Programs

MCH has been awarded funds to implement the reading and discussion program, "The Book Group: Exploring Literature in Company."

"The Book Group ," a six-state project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, was organized by the Utah Library Association to encourage reading and discussion by out-of-school adults. The project provides speakers, multiple copies of books, study guides and bibliographies to support reading and discussion on the themes of "The Common Good" and "Trails of the West.

If your organization or club would like to host a series, please contact the MCH. "The Common Good" consists of three to five of the following titles: *Habits of the Heart: Individualism and Commitment in American Life* by Robert N. Bellah et al; *Ceremony* by Leslie Marmon Silko; *Bless Mr. Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya; *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald; *Beloved* by Toni Morrison; and *Cities on the Hill* by Frances Fitzgerald.

Become A Friend – Keep the Humanities Alive and Lively in Montana

Please use this form if you would like to join others in making a contribution to the quality of life in Montana by becoming a *FRIEND OF THE HUMANITIES.*

I would like to keep the humanities alive and lively in Montana by becoming a Friend. I understand that my gift may be submitted for match by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Please list me as a:

[ ]	Contributor	$ 25
[ ]	Associate	50
[ ]	Patron	100
[ ]	Benefactor	250
[ ]	Other	_____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Date _____ Amount _____

Signature _____

Make checks payable to:
Montana Committee for the Humanities - Friends
P.O. Box 8036, Heligate Station
Missoula, MT 59807

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MCH Deadlines and Meetings

Deadlines:
The 20th of every month is the application deadline for grants under $6000, with the exception of media grants.

October 2: Nominations for MCH Members due
October 15: Humanities Institutes Proposals Due
Dec. 20: Media Grants Due

Meetings:
Sept. 15-16: MCH meeting Red Lodge, MT

Nov. 17: MCH Awards Banquet Missoula, MT

Nov. 17-18: Fall MCH Meeting Missoula, MT

The Montana Committee for the Humanities
P.O. Box 8036, Hellgate Station
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